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The Works Of Horatio Walpole, Earl Of Orford

In Five Volumes

Walpole, Horace

London, 1798

Advertisement relative to the Papers left for Publication on the Subject of
Chatterton

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RELATIVE TO

The Papers left for Publication on the Subject of CHATTERTON.

WHEN I wrote and published the letter to the editor of Chatterton's miscellanies, I could not find these few papers relative to Chatterton, which I had mislaid, and did not find but by accident four or five years afterwards. They prove, that speaking by memory I made two mistakes, yet neither of any consequence. I then thought the first ode sent me by Chatterton was written on the death of Richard I.; but it was on his absence, which however shows it was meant to pass for written in that age, and is only a still stronger proof of that intention—for, had it spoken of him as dead, it might have been written by a later poet; but speaking of him as *now* gone to war, it implied a cotemporary poet.

My other mistake by forgetfulness, was in saying I had burnt the last letter I was going to send to Chatterton—I did think so; but found it, though unfinished, with his *two letters*. Those two here preserved, and which consequently are curious, and ought to be kept, prove *under his own hand* the truth of what I have asserted, of having given him good advice. They contain also an early idea of his, of destroying, as he did at last, all his useless lumber of literature [*i. e.* probably his forged poetry], because it had not immediately enriched him, as he expected.

HORACE WALPOLE.